

TOWN OF WILTON

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: December 30, 2013

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Town Office

Present: Chairman Daniel E. Donovan, III, Selectmen William F. Condra and Richard E. Swanson, and Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Donovan.

Jane Farrell was first on the agenda. She told the Board that 92% of the 2013 taxes had been collected. The balance of uncollected taxes was \$720,000. Two properties recently sold so the property taxes would be collected on those; KP's Auto on Route 101 and the Post Office building.

Jane gave the Board the date for Town elections: Tuesday, March 11, 2014. The School District meeting is probably scheduled for March 7, 2014, but this has not been confirmed by the School District yet. Jane asked the Board if they would like to schedule the Town Meeting for Thursday March 13 at 7:00. The Board agreed to this meeting date.

Next she talked about the Town report cover. Jane suggested putting the new Fire Station on the cover. The Board suggested that Jane contact Steve Peach from Dennis Mires, The Architect firm and ask if he can provide her with a picture. The inside cover was discussed and the Board agreed with a recommendation that Jane offered. Selectman Swanson asked when the Citizen of the Year is chosen. Chairman Donovan told how the presentation is now made during the Main Street summer event instead of at the Christmas event as had been done in the past.

Jane stated that the filing period for Town Offices begins on January 22nd. Jane presented two abatement requests for signatures; one of the requests qualifies for exemption by State Statute. Next she discussed some budget items. The cash register in her office is 26 years old and no longer supported for service. She estimates \$450 for a new one. Also, she suggested that the copier contract should be looked at.

Tom Schultz was next on the agenda. His first item was the 2013 Warrant Article for \$16,600 to have an engineering study done on the New Reservoir dam. Tom stated that there had been a lack of communication between Wilton Water Works and the Board of Selectmen during the year because the study didn't get done. When Tom was made aware of the Warrant Article he asked Mike Bergeron to contact HTE, Inc. to see if their price would still be honored. If so, the funds can be encumbered with a contract. There was a discussion about the letter of deficiency from DES, and Chairman Donovan asked that the Water Commission contact them to let them know that it will be done. It was confirmed that the Water Commission submitted a contract to encumber the funds for a new pump.

Mr. Schultz talked next about the meeting that he and Sewer Commissioner Tom Herlihy had with DPW Director Steve Elliott. He explained the correspondence exchanges between the Commissioners and Mr. Elliott; most of the requests involved the Water Superintendant. Tom stated that the Water Commission has done all that was requested. Tom told the Board about the difference of opinion of who should be in charge of water issues. Tom read a letter from the Water Commission stating that the Water Superintendant was in charge and why this was necessary. Tom listed Mike's certification statistics. Chairman Donovan said that he recalls this being discussed years ago and he thought it had been resolved. The letter will be forwarded to Steve. Chairman Donovan does not want to take any action on the letter Tom presented until the Board gets Steve's response. Tom Herlihy stated that the Sewer Commission has no problem with Steve

running things for the Sewer Commission because it is a town department.

Attorney Wil Sullivan attended the meeting to discuss the Riverwalk subdivision. He told the history; saying that in 2006 New Spartan Properties subdivided sixteen lots up in the Proctor and Greene Street area of Town. As part of the subdivision plan there is some common land. Attorney Sullivan stated that the owners would like 1/16th of the common land parcel to be added to each lot on the tax bill, so as not to have sixteen separate tax bills to send. Chairman Donovan asked about setting up an Association. Attorney Sullivan confirmed that an association has been set up and he said that it was approved by the Planning Board that each lot gets 1/16 of the common land. The deed will describe a piece of property plus a 1/16th interest. Jim Quinn and Tom Quinn Jr., were also in attendance and spoke on behalf of Wil's explanation. The Selectmen discussed it and were in favor of the request as presented.

Fire Chief Ray Dick was the next appointment but he was on a fire call so may not make it to the meeting.

Chairman Donovan spoke about a request made by Ian McSweeney of the Russell Foundation concerning property on Abbot Hill Road. The Board discussed the request and accepted his offer to research the issue.

Dawn Tuomala attended the meeting to discuss the Stormwater Plan. She wanted to explain how the \$75,000 request for the Stormwater line item would be used. She had a handout which she explained to the Board. There will be a need for a GIS system that will be used to map all of the catch basins among other things. She said that it would be less expensive if the Town would purchase the software. There is fifteen years worth of work that needs to be done within the next five years. She will submit a contract for her work, as requested by the

Board.

Fire Chief Ray Dick made the meeting after the fire call. He presented his budget to the Board. He explained the increases in his budget due to the increased space of the new Fire Station. This year the turnout gear will be a line item in the budget as opposed to a Warrant Article because it is not over the \$10,000 threshold. Chairman Donovan expressed his appreciation for the firefighters, expressing what they do for next to nothing. The Selectmen approved his budget which he will present to the Budget Committee Thursday night. Ray offered to give tours of the station to the press and he commended Hutter for the great job they are doing. The Board thanked Ray.

Chairman Donovan updated the Board on the two on-going lawsuits.

The Selectmen discussed the request from the Diocese regarding abating the property tax bill for the Catholic Church. Assessor Todd Haywood's recommendation was reviewed. The discussion included prior year abatements, the Open Cupboard Food Pantry, and the request made by Chairman Donovan for a calendar of events to prove they qualify for the exemption which was not provided by the Diocese. In the end, the Selectmen decided not to abate the tax bill.

A request had been made to the Selectmen's Office to obtain a copy of a letter which had been discussed in a nonpublic session and sealed with the minutes. The Selectmen determined that a copy of this letter cannot be given out unless the author approved it.

Chairman Donovan updated the Board about his conference call with Primex regarding property liability insurance. His determination was that the property liability policy needs to be studied very carefully and he would not suggest changing provider's at this time. Coverage on bridges and other items needs to be looked at.

The board discussed the Town Hall budget.

The piece of property on Maple Street next to the Gable residence was discussed. The Selectmen decided that the fees would be picked up by the Town and a Warrant Article would be presented to the voters at Town Meeting to see if they were in agreement with the lot line adjustments as discussed.

Chairman Donovan will talk with the Fire Chief about a maintenance easement on a piece of property behind the Fire Station.

The minutes were approved.

The manifests were signed

Payroll for period ending 12/28/13 was approved.

The Property Liability contract was signed.

One (1) Abatement request was signed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 P.M. by Chairman Donovan, seconded by Selectman Condra, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary